

Subject  
75#2

12 November 1953

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting at the State Department 5 November 1953, attended by [ ] and [ ] of SE and Messrs. Leverich and Recknagel of State

1. On 5 November [ ] (DC/SE) and [ ] (SE/CPP) called on Messrs. Leverich and Recknagel at the Department of State to discuss certain matters relating to Albania.

2. [ ] provided a detailed summation of the recent OBOPUS/VALUABLE meetings in London (21-23 October), after which Mr. Leverich expressed interest in whether the British were, in fact, supporting the Prizren League as alleged on occasion by Italian and other sources. [ ] explained that, because of the delicacy of our liaison with the Yugoslav I.S. and our reluctance to embark upon a discussion of Yugoslav matters with the British, this question had been treated cautiously; however, the British view of the Yugoslav position with respect to Albania in general and the Prizren League in particular coincided with the view enunciated by the Americans. The British stated that although they had hoped at the time of Tito's visit to London that the Yugoslavs would take a more reasonable attitude toward the Albanians, nothing had occurred in the past six months to substantiate that hope. The British agreed wholeheartedly that the present is no time to encourage any contact between the NCFA and the Prizren League.

3. Mr. Leverich was interested in the specifics of our proposal to the British regarding the broadening of the Committee and, following [ ] explanation, made reference to his conversation with Signor Sensi, First Secretary of the Italian Embassy, concerning the Italian Foreign Office query regarding reduction of State Department (sic) subsidy to the NCFA (a copy of Mr. Leverich's Memorandum of Conversation with Signor Sensi is attached). Mr. Leverich was advised that inasmuch as we had no present evidence of Italian subsidies to the NCFA Signor Sensi's query might reasonably be regarded as an Italian effort to (a) ascertain the extent of current U.S. interest in the Committee, or (b) to enjoy the benefits of a collaborative U.S.-Italian effort in sponsoring the Committee. Mr. Leverich offered to obtain from [ ] British Embassy, TRD) a copy of the Italian note to the British Government which requested information concerning a meeting on Albania believed by the Italians to have been held in London, passing on to [ ] in turn information on Signor Sensi's approach.

4. It was agreed that the CIA representatives would ascertain whether NGLS was prepared to provide a positive answer to external inquiries concerning the continued subsidy of SOGA by MIT. Upon our obtaining verification, Mr. Leverich was to be advised so that he might reply to Signor Sensi's query in that sense. However, contrary to the understanding reached earlier between [redacted] of CIA and Messrs. Tarcy and Becknagel of the State Department (see the last sentence of paragraph 3 of [redacted] memorandum of conversation dated 4 November 1953), Mr. Leverich felt it would be inopportune to indicate that the U.S. Government would not welcome any financial support of the SOGA at the hands of the Italian Government. Mr. Leverich did, however, express his willingness to sound out Signor Sensi further on the alleged Italian subsidies to the SOGA.

5. Rather than inform the Italian and Greek Services through clandestine service or diplomatic channels of our intentions vis-a-vis the SOGA, decision was made to advise London that for substantial reasons we were presently opposed to providing the Greek and Italian Governments with such advice on a government or service level, and that we deemed it preferable for them to learn of this development through their own channels.

DCS [redacted] SE/OPP [redacted] Jdw  
12 November 1953

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